Dear Dick, 5/20/93

Am I comfortable with you? Of course!

Let me think "conservatively" with you. It gets me to where you anticipate greater than average costs because I discount the other possible explanations. So, let us forget the advance and you can have those funds at hand.

As long as we both get Social Security plus Lil's retirement we make out OK and have no need of extra funds save for what we do not anticipate.

If there are special cost problems, as from size, I'm willing to help with them, too. I'll forgo any royalties until you recover any unusual costs.

When you have time I'd like to understand what you mean by "extensive editing." We discussed the foreword and the introduction and while I no longer have as clear a recollection of the unintended and unnecessary repetition, it should be edited out. I was aware of that. In fact, if the conditions of my life had been different I'd intended doing that months ago. But as Peter goes over it I hope he can think from time to time whether some repetition was intended and has a purpose. I'm sure that sometimes I did have a purpose.

I am aware also, and in part this is related, that there may be too much on JAMA. I did have a purpose and it is not essential but I think it can be useful if it doesnot become too much too much.

I think that with attention this book can have an impact in and on the AMA.

There are doctors who were deeply offended over what JAMA did. I've heard from some. I have in confidence a complaint they addressed to the big cheese on the board of directors. I believe that this feeling extends to many doctors and that the book can be the cause of firing Lundberg. That would have an enormous impact on the book.

One of these doctors, not so young he does not have a family, which he does, has been in touch by phone and has sent me some very unwise remarks Lundberg made that I'll be using in an epilogue. A transcript of them. In brief he confessed not caring a bit about the JFK assassination until about a year before he began his project and still knows nothing about it. What he did is based entirely on his belief that he can trust his life to the prosectors. And he actually said that he had wiped the whole thing out!

I am not arguing against removing what you regard as too much. I'm merely telling you of my purpose when I intend rather than when I did not intend repetition. I'm sure the latter exists.

There may be other content the purpose of which may not be readily apparent. But it may also have a purpose. If it does not take too much time, and I want to do nothing to delay the most expeditious possible publication, I'd like to be asked if there is any such question with any intended cut. I know that the need for some can be apparent. I'm not talking about anything like that. What I have in mind is ellipsis that I do intend and about which I hear all the time, favorably. Wrone recently told me, for example, that he is rereading Post Mortem and is surpised at how much more he perceives in it. The record that I remember is a letter from a New York lawyer several years ago. He said he had just reread Whitewash for the

tenth time and each time he got from it what he had not gotten earlier. There have always been matters I would not state explicitly but that I wanted to leave for others for the future, for them to work with..

There can also be what relates to evidence not generally known or to come later. Some of that is intended and some is to make it read more like a mystery story. Did I ever tell you that Whitewash was runner -up for the mystery writers award in 1966? I did not even enter it! It is to make it read more like a mystery that I often did not do what is usual, especially at the beginning and ending of chapters. Wrone did not perceive it at first but then he did.

These are some of the things I hope you and Peter will have in mind when deciding on cutting in particular. And I have the past to go on, I've heard favorably about both the ellipsis and the style of a mystery.

I am not arguing and I will not. Do what you think is necessary. But I'd rather not have cuts made because of cost, the reason I offer to take care of that, and I do think that cutting for that reason alone will diminish the book, whether or not its sales.

What is strange in a way is that increasingly recently I am hearing from those who express appreciation of my writing being factual and not theoretical. I have no way of knowing how widespread it is but now most writers and almost all callers comment on that and express appreciation for it.

A high-school teacher is being sent from someplace in Wisconsin to give me some kind of award tomorrow from his school for it! (He is unknown to Wrone.)

Increasingly also people are asking to be able to meet me. I decline most but there are two men who persisted politely and I've agreed to their coming tomorrow morning and leaving after lunch/

What makes this surprising to me is that the only recent works are entirely of theorized conspiracies. Or, that is the only kind of book an overwhelming proportion of people have ever had access to.

Wrone's branch of the state university system does not get the better students. He and others I know on the faculties of better schools complain that their students do not like to read. This year, instead of a test, he had his students write an essay on their reading of Whitewash. He'd used it as a text. He was absolutely astounded! It was the best thing that class did. Most reflected reading and understanding it well and some even wrote persuasive reasons why they enjoyed reading it! He'd never had that reaction before, of enjoying reading.

The time will come when I may be able to help in other ways. For example, I have a friend who is the former head of the Academy of Forensic Sciences. I think he will do what he can to help the book and might write about it for that Journal and/or perhaps other medical publications. He is a doctor and a lawyer.

I have a new friend in Louisville, one of those who wanted to visit, a lawyer whose

wife is the medical-records expert I use. I think he might want to offer a review to the Courier-Journal out there. Or elsewhere.

Other things like that ~~might~~ will come to mind if you let me know when to start thinking about such things.

I do not need a contract. If you want one for your own purposes, please send it.

I've asked Wrone, as a historian, to approach one who is quite prestigeous, from whom a word would be very helpful.

When there is the opportunity I'll speak to other friends.

If there is such a thing as a list of talk-show hosts if I have one I can indicate those who know me and have used me in the past. There is at least one who as of my last knowledge was network out of New York and several who used me often in the past in the San Francisco area. I have a friend there who had done very effective p.r. for me there in the past. I can think of a few reprters, too.

I'm hopeful that the interruptions will diminish after the first. One of my appointments at Hopkins has been set back to that day. Then I hope to start reading ~~fort~~ for the first time from the first page.

If Peter has any questions, I hope he will feel free to ask them.

Thanks, and with hope,

Harold